

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~TOP SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

75924-b

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

103

BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

4 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allen Evans (OIR)
 Colonel Gerald F. Lillard, USA (G-2)
 Captain Allan L. Reed, USN (ONI)
 Colonel Jack E. Thomas, USAF (AFOIN-2B)
 Captain John A. Holbrook, USN (JIG)

SUBJECT : Appendices to NIE-90: Soviet Bloc Capabilities
 through Mid-1955

1. The terms of reference for the Appendices to NIE-90 are attached. These were agreed upon by the IAC representatives on 3 March.

2. The assignment of contributions is as follows:

Appendix A

I OIR primary + Services
 II ORR + Services and OIR
 III OSI primary + Services

Appendix B

II G-2 + ORR
 III AFOIN + ORR
 IV ONI + ORR

Appendix C

I OIR
 II OIR
 III OIR + Services

3. Contributions are due by 13 April

25X1

Executive Secretary

Distribution "B"

DOCUMENT NO.

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. I

☐ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1990

AUTH:

DATE: 6 APR 81 REVIEWER:

25X1
25X1~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~
CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

4 March 1953

**SUBJECT: NIE-90: SOVIET BLOC CAPABILITIES, THROUGH
MID-1955 (OUTLINE FOR APPENDICES)**

APPENDIX A

NON-MILITARY FACTORS AFFECTING BLOC CAPABILITIES

I. INTERNAL POLITICAL FACTORS

A. The USSR

Stability of the regime. Stalin's role. Structure and effectiveness of controls. Impact of Stalin's death on stability and on policy. Current and probable future problems and vulnerabilities.

B. Soviet Control over Satellites

Character, extent, and techniques. Principal problems and vulnerabilities.

C. The Satellites

Stability of regimes. Structure and effectiveness of controls. Current and probable future problems and vulnerabilities.

CONFIDENTIAL
~~TOP SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

D. Communist China

Stability of the regime. Structure and effectiveness of controls. Current and probable future problems and vulnerabilities.

E. Relations of USSR with Communist China

Character of the relations. Current and probable future interests of two states. Current and probable future problems and vulnerabilities.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING INTERNAL POLITICAL FACTORS

A. What political, social, or military problems within each Bloc state and between the states forming the Bloc may develop in such a way as to weaken or to strengthen Bloc capabilities?

B. What are the major vulnerabilities within each Bloc state and between the states forming the Bloc which can be exploited by Western political warfare?

II. ECONOMIC FACTORS (for USSR, Satellites, and Communist China, and for Bloc as a whole)

A. Bloc Gross National Product

Size. Rates of growth. Contributions of USSR, Satellites, and Communist China. Comparisons of USSR with US and of Bloc with NATO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Bloc Economic Policy

Current and probable future programs. Trends in major economic sectors. Production of key materials, services, and weapons. Current status and probable future rates of collectivization.

C. Population and Labor Force

Size. Annual increment in manpower pool. Labor productivity. Current and probable future achievements and problems.

D. Ability to Expand Military Production

Current and probable future allocation of GNP to defense, investment, and consumption. Comparison with US, with NATO, and with Soviet World War II experience.

E. Ability to Export

Current and probable future ability to export. Effects on internal programs.

F. Strategic Posture of Bloc Economy

Economic self-sufficiency and vulnerability to economic warfare. Concentration and dispersal of industry. Transportation. Food supply. Stockpiling. Major points of vulnerability (inherent weaknesses).

- 3 -
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING ECONOMIC FACTORS

- A. What are the size, composition, and rate of growth of the non-agricultural and agricultural labor forces of the Bloc? What are the significant trends in labor supply and labor productivity? How will these developments affect Bloc economic growth and Bloc military and political warfare strengths and capabilities?
- B. What commodities and capital goods, and in what quantity, can the Bloc export without seriously impairing its internal programs?
- C. What is the dependence of the various countries of the Bloc and of the principal industries of the Bloc upon outside areas for economic development? How vulnerable are the individual countries and industries of the Bloc and the Bloc as a whole to economic warfare?
- D. What is the present degree of concentration and dispersal of industry? What will be the degree of concentration by principal industry and by geographical area by mid-1955?
- E. What limits do the availability of economic resources to the Bloc, and the resource allocation to defense projected in paragraph II, D (page 3), set upon the expansion of output of military equipment?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- F. What are the character and extent of the Soviet economic contributions to Communist China and how significant to Chinese Communist economic and military strength are they? What has been the effect upon the USSR? How large and how significant will the Soviet contribution be throughout the period of this estimate? What will be the effect of this on the Soviet economy?
- G. What are the character and extent of the Chinese Communist contributions to the USSR and how significant to Soviet economic and military strength are they? What has been the effect upon Communist China? How large and how significant will the Chinese Communist contribution be throughout the period of this estimate? What will be the effect of this on the Chinese Communist economy?

III. SCIENTIFIC FACTORS

A. Basic Trends in Bloc Science and Technology

Research and development program. General comparison of Bloc scientific capabilities with those of the West.

B. Bloc Scientific Resources

Size and quality of training programs. Education program. Equipment and laboratory facilities. Effect of Soviet ideology and of Soviet system. Evaluation of capabilities in various scientific fields.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C. Current and Probable Future Achievements of Soviet Science.

D. Contributions of Satellite and Chinese Communist Science
to Bloc Science.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX B

BLOC MILITARY STRENGTH

I. GENERAL SUMMARY

A. Strength of Armed Forces (current and future)

Ground, air, naval. Supplies of equipment and weapons. Mobilization capacity. Significant strengths and weaknesses. Comparison with US and with NATO.

B. Bloc Military Program

Principal emphases. Significant offensive and defensive developments. Strategic concepts.

C. Over-all Operational Effectiveness of Bloc Armed Forces

Coordination. Command. Comparison of effectiveness of Bloc forces by potential theaters of operation. Comparison with US and NATO in size of divisions, fire power, mobility, air support, logistics,

II. BLOC GROUND STRENGTHS

A. Soviet Army (current and future)

Strength, composition, equipment, training, morale, combat effectiveness, mobilization potential. Significant strengths and weaknesses. Production of materiel.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Bloc European Strength (current and future)

Soviet forces in Europe.

Satellite armies.

(Examine same factors
as for Soviet Army
above.)

Mission. Comparison with NATO
forces.

Logistical position.

C. Bloc Forces in the Far East (current and future)

USSR.

Communist China.

North Korea.

(Examine same factors
as for Soviet Army
above.)

Viet Minh.

Logistical position.

III. BLOC AIR STRENGTH

A. Soviet Air Forces (current and future)

Aircraft strength in operational units and in reserve.

Trends in composition, equipment, training, strategic
mobility, and effectiveness. Aircraft production by type.

Logistical position in Europe and in Far East.

B. Satellite Air Forces (current and future)

Mission. Aircraft strength. Effectiveness. Logistical
position.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

C. Communist Air Force in China (current and future)

Mission. Aircraft strength. Effectiveness. Logistical position.

D. Bloc Medium and Long-Range Air Strength (current and future)

Aircraft strength. Bases. Combat ranges. Training. Missiles. Unconventional weapons of mass destruction. Effectiveness.

E. Bloc Defenses against Air Attack (current and future)

Active defense: warning system, aircraft strength available, weapons, proficiency. Passive defense: civil defense system.

IV. BLOC NAVAL STRENGTH

A. Soviet Naval Forces (current and future)

Mission, main operational theaters, surface and submarine strength. Disposition. Operational effectiveness. Mine warfare proficiency. Naval construction. Logistical position. Naval technological developments.

B. Soviet Naval Striking Forces

Surface strength.

Amphibious strength. Bases. Submarine strength. Strategic mobility.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C. Satellite and Communist Chinese Navies

Mission. Strength. Effectiveness.

D. Bloc Merchant Marine

Size. Strength and weaknesses.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING BLOC MILITARY STRENGTH

- A. How are the Bloc armed forces now distributed geographically? What major considerations govern the distribution of Bloc armed forces: strategic, economic, administrative, security, etc.? Are these considerations likely to be revised during the period of this estimate?
- B. What are the distinctions in quality, equipment, and combat effectiveness within the armed forces of each state? (For instance, we need an analysis demonstrating that so many Soviet divisions are of high quality and are fully equipped; that so many others are at half strength, that information on so many others is very limited, etc.)
- C. What are the current and probable future Bloc reserves of manpower and of equipment (tanks, aircraft, etc.)? How will estimated future changes influence Bloc strength capabilities?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

- D. What is the level of military stockpiling in Eastern Europe, the USSR, and Communist China? For how long a period could these stockpiles support combat operations?
- E. What are the principal weaknesses of the Bloc armed forces? How much progress will be made in correcting these within the period of this estimate?
- F. What percentage of the Bloc's major surface and submarine vessels is obsolescent or obsolete?
- G. What is the status of Soviet snorkel development; how many submarines are snorkel-equipped?
- H. What are the present strength and probable development of Bloc amphibious forces?

APPENDIX C

BLOC POLITICAL WARFARE STRENGTH

I. Definition of Political Warfare.

II. Character of Bloc Political Warfare

Role of USSR and Communist China in international Communist movement. Role and discipline of national Communist parties outside Bloc. Major problems and issues.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

III. Bloc Political Warfare Strength

Size, power, leadership, and organization of Communist parties.

Doctrine. Relation to Bloc Military Power. Skill. General vulnerabilities of Bloc.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING BLOC POLITICAL WARFARE STRENGTHS

- A. How effective will the Kremlin be throughout the period of this estimate in maintaining its control over the international Communist movement?
- B. What effect will developments within the Bloc have upon Bloc political warfare strengths?
- C. How would the growth in Western unity and strength affect Bloc political warfare strengths? How would the decline of Western unity and strength affect Bloc political warfare strengths?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~